

Message Text

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70

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TAGS: PFOR, HU, OEXC

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT: US-GOH RELATIONS

1. DURING HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT'S JANUARY 2 ANNUAL VIN D'HONNEUR FOR CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION ACCREDITED BUDAPEST, PRESIDENT LOSONCZI FIRST CHIT-CHATTED AT LENGTH AND EXCHANGED MULTIPLE COMRADELY TOASTS WITH DEAN OF CORPS (CHOMON-CUBA), WITH SUB-DEAN (PAVLOV-USSR) AND WITH OTHER AMBASSADORS FROM "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADORS BULLED THEIR WAY INTO CLUSTER OF JOVIAL SOCIALISTS WHILE PRC AND ALBANIAN AMBASSADORS ENGAGED IN SERIOUS DISCUSSION IN FAR CORNER OF SALON.

2. AFTER HAVING CHATTED WITH AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR AND AN ARAB CLUSTER, LOSONCZI MOVED TO TRIO OF KERSTING (FRG), LOPES VIEIRA (PORTUGAL) AND MCAULIFFE. PRESIDENT SAID GOH-FRG RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT IN EVERY REGARD AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO INTENSIFICATION AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN 1976.

(COMMENT: FRG FONMIN GENSCHER IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BUDAPEST IN FIRST QUARTER 1976 TO ENGAGE IN TALKS PREPARATORY TO FIRST SECRETARY JANOS KADAR'S VISIT TO BONN IN SECOND QUARTER 1976.) THEN, TURNING TO MCAULIFFE, LOSONCZI OBSERVED THAT GOH-USG RELATIONS HAD TAKEN NOTABLE
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TURN FOR BETTER IN RECENT MONTHS, THAT HUNGARY WILL WORK

TOWARD CONTINUATION THAT FAVORABLE TREND IN COMING YEAR
IN HOPE THAT REMAINING IMPEDIMENTS CAN BE OVERCOME AND
THAT CSCE HELSINKI DECLARATION WILL GUIDE ITS POLICY.
MCAULIFFE EXPRESSED THANKS FOR PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND
GRATITUDE FOR MANY KINDNESSES WHICH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS
AT EVERY LEVEL HAVE EXTENDED TO HIM AND HIS STAFF AND TO
THEIR FAMILIES. VISITS TO BUDAPEST SINCE HELSINKI SUMMIT
BY FOUR VERY SENIOR MEMBERS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT CLEARLY
MANIFEST WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN HUNGARY AND ITS INTENTION
TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AND EXPAND UNDERSTANDING. AT THE
MOMENT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AMERICAN INTEREST IN HUNGARY
WAS FAR GREATER THAN HUNGARIAN INTEREST IN AMERICA. MCAULIFFE
HOPED THAT SOME OF THE SENIOR HUNGARIANS WHO HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY
INVITED TO VISIT THE U.S. WILL DO SO IN 1976 SINCE THAT WOULD
SERVE TO RESTORE THE BALANCE; BUT HE STILL HAD TO CONFESS TO
BEING SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED AND DISAPPOINTED. IN ANSWER TO
LOSONCZI'S QUESTION, MCAULIFFE SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN
TO HIS OWN AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON APPARENT
HUNGARIAN LACK OF INTEREST IN U.S. AND IN THINGS
AMERICAN: SPECIFICALLY, NON-RESPONSE BY CULTURAL
INSTITUTE (KKI) AFTER SEVEN LONG MONTHS TO U.S.
OFFER OF TEN (10) FREE THIRTY-TO-FORTY-FIVE DAY INDIVIDUAL IV
GRANTS (75 STATE 199000). PRESIDENT SMILINGLY RESPONDED THAT
TIME LAG CONSITITUTED CLEAR PROOF OF HUNGARY'S DEMOCRACY.
DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENTS MAKE DECISIONS EXPEDITIOUSLY BY FIAT;
BUT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TAKES A LITTLE LONGER. MCAULIFFE
EXPRESSED THANKS AND ADDED THAT HE MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT
ATTRIBUTE LONG DELAY TO DEMOCRATS OR DEMOCRACY, BUT TO
BUREAUCRATS AND BUREAUCRACY. PRESIDENT LOSONCZI LAUGHED AND
SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD.
MCAULIFFE

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